



Segue Institute for Learning

Where ALL Students are "AT PROMISE"

325 Cowden Street – Central Falls, RI – 02863

Phone – (401) 721-0964 * Fax – (401) 721-0984 * Website – SegueIFL.org

Angelo Garcia – Founder/Head of School

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Monday, September 9, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM by Jesse Cohen.

Roll Call –

Present were Jesse Cohen; Lauren Schechtman; Nelly Hoffens-Vargas; Grace Rivera, James Setaro, and Lucy Rios.

Absent was Jessica Brown.

Segue staff present were Ann Manocchio and Sarah Girard. Absent was Angelo Garcia.

Quorum – six (6) of the nine Board members present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Cohen asks Board members present to take a couple of minutes to review the August 26, 2013 minutes since it underwent changes after Ms. Rivera emailed the Board a copy for their review. Ms. Rios raised the question and wanted clarification in regard to the entry in "Old Business" where the minutes state that no votes were made at that time. Mr. Cohen clarifies that the statement pertains the voting to approve the position description for the new development position. Ms. Ristaino-Siegel mentions there is a typo on the third paragraph where it says "Ms. Cohen" instead of "Mr. Cohen." Amendments noted by the Secretary. Having no other amendments to the minutes, a motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Mrs. Lauren Schechtman and seconded by Ms. Lucy Rios. Board reached consensus with no opposition and no further discussion. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Mr. Cohen informs the Board of Mr. Garcia's absence as he and Mrs. Denise Boule are attending the monthly meeting of the RIDE Board of Education. In light of this, Mr. Cohen informs the Board that Mrs. Ann Manocchio will verbally provide the Board with the Head of School report.

Head of School –

The renovations to the Annex building continue. Work has begun on the roof of the Annex building and then work will be done at the main Segue building. Work is being done as well with the insulation of the air conditioning system and an assessment of what still needs to be done thereafter is in process. Mr. Garcia met today with Mrs. Connie McCarthy, who is the new teachers' induction coach. She was here last year. She will be coaching two of our newest teachers: one ELA and one Humanities. Funding for these services will come from the Race to the Top grant. We are finalizing enrollment and almost at capacity. We are not enrolling anymore 8th graders due to the assimilation challenge, but we need to seek from our waiting list several applicants due to losing 10 students who were on our original roster. Currently, we have 71 8th grade students.

Segue is applying for a Salad Bar Grant. Mr. Garcia and Ms. Rivera are currently working on the application. We have started the process of staff evaluations. We are using the RIDE provided evaluation and the school lead staff will undergo a training in the next few weeks. Mr. Garcia, Mrs. Lourenco and Mrs. Manocchio met with Jason Becker, from the Annenberg Institute and formerly working for RIDE, who will come to help Segue with its data interpretation.

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The Central Falls Mayor's Office and the Central Falls Policy Department have been very helpful to Segue with concerns around parking during schools hours, new painted crosswalk and school zone signs that need to be in place. Segue has a zoning meeting next Wednesday, September 25 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Garcia and Mrs. Manocchio will attend; Board members are invited to attend as well.

Mr. Garcia and Mrs. Manocchio along with other lead staff met with Mr. Drew Allsopp and Ms. Nora Meah, from RIDE to discuss Segue's charter renewal to discuss the two conditions that need to be met in order for the renewal to be finalized. This evidence will be submitted at the end of September. The College Crusade is returning to Segue to use our facilities during this year. Also, Senator Crowley has informed Segue of the availability of a grant related to renewable energy in schools. More information will follow. Mr. Cohen asks the members if there any questions for Mrs. Manocchio regarding the Head of School report. Mrs. Manocchio mentioned there was a bit of controversy with painting the sidewalk in yellow as prevention from cars parking while students use the crosswalk to school.

Mr. Cohen asks Mrs. Manocchio in regard to the conversation with Jason Becker if he is working with Segue at a full capacity per his functions at Annenberg. Mrs. Manocchio answers no, that if his services are used it will be at the personal level but Segue has not started yet. Ms. Rios asks if to fill in the spaces for 8th grade was the lottery used. Ms. Girard and Ms. Rivera explained that the Waiting List was used and student applicants' families were called. Only three (3) responded and they were enrolled at Segue for this year. Other applicants were not able to be reached because telephones were no longer in use. Currently we have 80 students in 6th grade, 79 in 7th grade, and 71 in 8th grade. Mr. Garcia is currently working on a salad bar grant. He and Ms. Rivera are processing the paperwork for submission.

Finance Report –

Mrs. Manocchio distributed copies of the Finance Report to members. Mr. Cohen indicated that they are looking for another September meeting date as the previous meeting was not convened. Mrs. Manocchio informs the Board that Segue's buildings are heated with oil. Administration is currently working on having both buildings set up for gas for heating both buildings. This process is time consuming and costly but it will be done. Both buildings floors have been cleaned, new locks have been placed and other building repairs have been done successfully. There were no questions for Mrs. Manocchio in regard to the finance report.

Mr. Cohen asked if there would be a vote for the development position. Mrs. Manocchio indicated that it is not ready as of yet. It will be kept on the Agenda until there is a vote.

New Business – Neither is a decision item only for conversation

- Allocation for CFSD – A conversation ensued in regard to a proposal from Mr. Garcia to make a donation/contribution to the Central Falls School District (CFSD) as appreciation for not having to pay rent when the school began to use the building completely. Mrs. Manocchio mentions that Dr. Gallo prefers some sort of collaborating project between both entities that would provide value to both. Mr. Cohen indicates that writing a check for CFSD would create an adverse financial situation for the district. Other members were hesitant to do something people would think it would be a long term arrangement. Mrs. Schechtman expresses her concern that Segue might be perceived as not needing money. She was under the impression that the amount set was \$50K. She indicates we should use caution in what we do. Ms. Siegel expressed that on the surface it seems great but we need to think of the consequences. Mrs. Schechtman asks the members if they all agree that a cash donation is not a good idea. Although all members agree that a cash allocation might not be

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the best way to go, a collaboration of some sort of program/event would be better for both parties, Mrs. Schechtman believes it should be thought further.

Mr. Cohen suggests that another venue for a cash donation would be to do it in a form of a teacher grant, something innovative for teachers, this way balance sheets are not affected. It should not seem as a patronizing gesture. Mrs. Manocchio mentions that our teachers would like access to that type of grant. Mrs. Manocchio mentions that Mr. Garcia just wanted to start the conversation on this topic. Mrs. Schechtman mentions that we do not have to give the District cash but we run programs, although it would be a yearly commitment.

Ms. Rios raised the question in regard of a time frame and if we have any. There is no time frame. She further asks if other charters have done something similar indicating we should do some research.

- RIDE Charter Renewal – Mr. Cohen submits for the Board's consideration and feedback the table of contents (TOC) letter being submitted to RIDE in response to the two (2) conditions Segue needs to meet in order for the renewal to become final. Mr. Cohen expresses his concerns in terms of timeline and asks the members for suggestions on how the process can be done better. Ms. Siegel mentions to members that she needs leave the meeting to attend another one. Continuing the conversation, Mrs. Schechtman suggests a list is made of what we currently have and don't have available.

Based on the ongoing conversation the Board decided to have an emergency meeting on Sunday, October 6 to work on the RIDE renewal, in particular having in the agenda the Nominating Committee.

Public Comment –

What is happening with the Annual Report?

Process for decision on League of Charter Schools membership (place on next meeting agenda)

Mrs. Nelly Hoffens-Vargas motions to adjourn the meeting. Lucy Rios seconded. Group reached consensus with no opposition or further discussion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Next meeting –

Monday, October 7, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

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Minutes submitted by Grace M. Rivera

Board approved meeting minutes on _____

Accepted by _____ on _____
Board Co-Chair Signature Date

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